IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) Method for treating a textile yarn, wherein said yarn is subject to mechanical abrasive surface processing, characterized in that said yarn is subjected to stretching and said mechanical surface processing is carried out in an area of the yarn subjected to stretching.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- forming a synthetic yarn comprising a plurality of continuous strands or filaments;
- subjecting said yarn to said stretching and to said mechanical abrasive surface processing to break at least one of said continuous strands or filaments and to form a plurality of discontinuous fibers projecting from the yarn.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 2, characterized in that said synthetic yarn is an air-textured yarn.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized by the following steps:

- forming a composite synthetic yarn comprising: (a) a multi-strand thread with continuous strands or filaments forming a core; and (b) a multi-strand effect thread with continuous strands or filaments, joined by air texturing to said core;

- subjecting said composite synthetic yarn to said stretching and to said mechanical abrasive surface processing which interrupts the continuity of at least some of the continuous strands or filaments forming the effect thread.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said yarn is subjected to a stretch in the range from 3% to 6%, and preferably from 4% to 5%.

6. (Currently Amended)Method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said mechanical abrasive surface processing is carried out by means of a grinder rotating about an axis of rotation.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 6, characterized in that said yarn is guided in such a way as to contact said grinder along a line which is inclined with respect to said axis of rotation of the grinder.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 6~~or 7~~, characterized in that said grinder has a conical shape.

9. (Currently Amended) Device for producing a yarn, comprising a path for said yarn, and at least one surface processing arranged along said path and carrying out a mechanical

abrasive surface processing on said yarn,- characterized in that it comprises stretching elements, which impart a stretch to said yarn along a portion of said path, said at least one mechanical processing element acting on the yarn along said portion of the path in which the yarn is subjected to stretching.

10. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 9, characterized by an air-texturing system located upstream of the mechanical processing element, said yarn being an air-textured yarn comprising at least one continuous strand or filament, whose continuity is interrupted by said mechanical processing element.

11. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 10, characterized in that said air-texturing system comprises at least one texturing nozzle, fed with at least two continuous yarns, each consisting of a plurality of continuous strands or filaments.

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim ~~9 to 11~~, characterized in that it comprises two rollers positioned along said path of the yarn, around which rollers turns of said yarn are wound, the peripheral velocities of said two rollers being different from each other in order to impart a stretch to said yarn, said mechanical processing element being position between said two rollers.

13. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim ~~9 to 12~~,

characterized in that said mechanical processing element is associated with a suction system for sucking out the residues generated by the abrasive processing.

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim ~~9 to 13~~, characterized in that said mechanical processing element is a grinder rotating about an axis of rotation.

15. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 14, characterized by two yarn guides located upstream and downstream of the grinder along the yarn path.

16. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, characterized in that said yarn guides are staggered with respect to each other to position the yarn in contact with said grinder along a line which is inclined with respect to the axis of rotation of the grinder.

17. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 14, ~~15 or 16,~~ characterized in that said grinder is a conical grinder.

18.(New) Textile yarn comprising fibers formed by the breaking of longer filaments by mechanical processing.

19. (New) Yarn according to claim 18, consisting at least partially of synthetic

filaments including a plurality of continuous synthetic strands or filaments, and in that said fibers are formed by the breaking of at least some of said continuous filaments by mechanical processing.

20. (New) Yarn according to claim 19, wherein the yarn is an air textured yarn including core formed from continuous strands or filaments and by an effect yarn interlaced to said core, formed from continuous strands or filaments, at least some of which are interrupted by mechanical processing.